internationalization of higher education and a large number of foreign universities/educational institutions have started showing their presence in India. The degrees awarded by foreign universities are not automatically at par with the degrees awarded by the Indian universities. The work relating to recognition and equivalence of degrees awarded by the universities in India and abroad is dealt with by Association of Indian Universities (AIU).

Probe against NGOs for misuse of funds

604. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Women and Child Development is probing the functioning of NGOs handling DWCD sponsored projects and programmes;

(b) if so, whether this probe is to assess the extent of nonperformance or fund misappropriation by the NGOs; and

(c) the names of NGOs which have been black-listed during the last year by the DWCD for misuse of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA): (a) and (b) Specific guidelines exist for monitoring and evaluation of various schemes being implemented by the Department of Women and Child Development which includes, ensuring that the implementing agency is registered and recommendation is forwarded by a State Government body. In order to further improve the effectiveness of these guidelines, the Department has recently undertaken several initiatives which, *inter-alia,* include setting up of State Empowered Committees for recommendations of project proposals, detailed feed back on utilization of funds by grantees, appointment of external monitoring and evaluation agencies, streamlining of working and bringing in transparency through information technology and the computerization of data base on voluntry sector agencies and projects sanctioned. The objective of the initiative is to monitor the effective implementation of the scheme as well as proper utilization of funds.

As and when specific instances or irregularities are brought to the notice of the Department, necessary action is taken to recover the money sanctioned to the organizations besides initiating action for blacklisting such organization. In Swawalamban (NORAD) Scheme, recovery of Government funds has since been made in case of nine organizations; Show-cause Notice has been issued to five organization for recovery of the balance of GOI funds; Two cases are sub-judice. Orders for recovery have been issued under the Creche Scheme in a case from Bihar State. The State Government has also been requested to lodge an FIR in the matter.

(c) Last year Shri Kunjlal Samarak Samiti, Lucknow has been blacklisted for misutilisation of grant under Creche Programme.

Implementation of SSA in Karnataka

605. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is being implemented in Karnataka;

(b) if so, how many children in the age of 6-14 years have been given free education in Karnataka under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan;

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide free education for children from the age of three years;

(d) the amount released to Karnataka during 2002-03 under the above Abhiyan; and

(e) number of children proposed to be provided with free education during 2003-04?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) As per the information furnished by Government of Karnataka, 79.45 lakh children in the 6-14 agergroup are being provided free education. Another 2.99 lakh out of school children are proposed to be covered during the year 2003-04. 13.65 lakh children are being provided free pre-school education under the scheme of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). The Central Government has released Rs. 8270.46 lakh during 2002-03.